

# MHG NEWSLETTER

ÕA 24/25

1 APRIL, 2025

NO. 27



## BIRTHDAYS

- 04.04 Jannar Tähepõld
- 06.04 Jelena Nikolajeva
- 07.04 Ivika Hein
- 09.04 Heli Lätt
- 11.04 Janika Kaljula

## WHEN A JOKE BECOMES TRUTH

Who among us doesn't know about the once science fiction idea of secondary school students about a swimming pool in the courtyard? They say that jokes come from real life, but every joke can turn into real life. So the school management, in cooperation with the council, is pleased to announce that the swimming pool planned for the courtyard of MHG has received the approval of the Tartu city government. The swimming pool won't be built overnight; its planning and construction are scheduled for 2029, and the sandy bottom in the original joke is not expected - the swimming pool will fully comply with European standards and will be used as part of Physical Education classes.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **24 March – 4 April – 12DP mock exams.**
- 31 March – **German DSD I oral exam**; PISA information round for students in grades 8 and 9; a representative from the University of Rostock introduces students to study opportunities at the University of Rostock and the German higher education system.
- 1 April – 7b watching the movie "Fränk" at the cinema; Tartu schools' cup competition in dodgeball for 4th-grade girls.
- 2 April – 9th graders' simulation of secondary school entrance interviews; **Minister of Education and Research Kristina Kallas** speaks to 10th and 11th graders about artificial intelligence; girls' and mixed choirs at a performance of "Carmen" in Estonia; Tartu schools' cup competitions in dodgeball for 4th-grade girls.
- 3 April – **alumnus Krister Paris** with Jüri Gymnasium **principal Liina Altroff** visit the course "Life in the Information Society"; 5a on a field trip to Taevaskoja; 3–4e at the University of Tartu's museum lesson "The Fairytale World of Ancient Greece"; 7a watching the movie "Fränk" at the cinema.
- 4 April – **12th graders' baby day**; Nature Month program for 6th and 8th graders "What do the annual rings tell us?"; singing camp for girls and mixed choirs in Vara; UT Chamber Choir concert in the MHG Aula.
- 5 April – singing camp for girls and mixed choirs in Vara; final round of the Economics Olympiad; 2nd rehearsal and recital for boys' choirs of the XXVIII National Song Festival "Iseoma"; Wanderer Literature Competition in the Aula.
- 7–11 April – **secondary school preliminary exams week.**
- 7 April – "Safe Choice" training for 11th grade students; PISA test; **DEL F Scola ire exams.**
- 8 April – **PISA test; DEL F Scola ire exams; German DSD I oral exam; Student Science Festival at the AH HAA Science Centre**; 8a and 8b watching the movie "Fränk" at the Elektrikino; KiVa event for 1a and 1b.
- 9 April – **Student Science Festival at the AH HAA Science Centre**; Härmatis groups rehearsal at ERM; Lithuanian teachers from Palanga visit MHG.
- 10 April – Regional round of the Humanities Olympiad for grades 5–8; XXVIII National Song Festival, rehearsal and performance of the 3–4th grade children's choir; Tartu schools' indoor hockey competitions for grades 4–5.
- 11 April – **12th graders' last school bell ceremony**; 5b class evening.
- April 12 – mixed choir at the song festival recital; Härmatis C1 at Hopper's birthday concert in Võru.
- April 13 – Concert by Härmatis dance groups at ERM.

## NOPTICED IN HÄRMA

- **Rahel Värton** (8a) won first place in the University of Tartu Natural History Museum's younger age group's bird quiz on 26 March.
- On 28 March, in the citywide Russian-language interactive competition "Ancient Greek Mythology as the Foundation of Global Culture" held at the Pushkin School, MHG student **Anastasiya Klakotskaya** (supervisor/teacher **Jelena Nikolajeva**) **achieved 1st place as a member of her team.**
- At the spelling Olympiad, **Aksel Kulpsoo** (4b) won first place, and **Lilli Russak** (4a) won second. Supervisors were **Karin Kannerma** and **Egle-Diana Keldt.**
- At the Tartu City Spelling Olympiad, **Berit Prii** (5b) took 9th place in the 5th grade category and 11th place overall (supervisor **Mari Maimre**). **Kaisaliisa Talviste** (6a) took 4th place in the 6th grade category (supervisor **Jana Kübar**). **Grete Audova** (7a) took 5th place in the 7th grade category, (supervisor **Karmen Grigor**). **Roosi Kõiv** (7b) took 10th place in the 7th grade category (**Karmen Grigor**). **Rahel Värton** (8a) took 2nd place in the 8th grade category (supervisor **Marilin Lõhmus**). **Ats Joosep Laineste** (9b) took 5th place in the 9th grade category (supervisor **Reet Volmer**). **Marta Paalo** (10c) took 9th place in the 10th-grade category (supervisor **Ivika Hein**). In the 11th grade, 3rd was **Elin Hainsalu** (11c, Jana Kübar). In the 12th grade, 2nd was **Erik Julius Lindgren** (12b, **Karmen Grigor**) and 4th was **Karolin Ruumet** (12a, **Ivika Hein**).
- The Antidolorosum school band festival took place on 30 March. **Timo Parkja's** (9a) **band "Tehnilised Viperused"** received the special award for best technical accuracy, and Timo received the special award for best pianist.



## NOPTICED IN HÄRMA

- On 24-28 April, a student exchange took place between the 7th–8th-grade students of MHG and Mart Reiniku School. MHG has been organizing such student exchanges in Tartu for many years. This time, the schools switchers from MHG were **Karolina Sarapuu** and **Mirel Petersell** (7a), **Lemme Toompere** and **Jan Kristen Roiland** (7b), **Adeele Jaht** and **Rika Erik** (8a), **Laura Markus** and **Lena Maria Nikolajev** (8b). From MRK, Mairel Jürison, Maarja Räisa, Saskia Kuusemets and Marlen Kärg from the 7th grade and Kert Saar, Henri Johannes Engelbrecht, Karel Kroodo and Gregor Tuur from the 8th grade came for the student exchange. The feedback from the Reiniku School students was that the school building is beautiful, exciting and clean, the students are very friendly, and the classes are creative and diverse. The different foreign languages, cool Design classes and the spacious library were interesting. The lack of a school bell was surprising. They inquired about studying at MHG. Härma students praised the good class discipline and the friendly students at Reiniku. The student exchange gave them courage and sparked their curiosity to have a similar experience in the future.



## NOPTICED IN HÄRMA

- On 25–26 March, an inspiring international meeting took place at Miina Härma Gümnaasium as part of the ERASMUS+ project “Inspiring Autonomy with Nordic Models for Student Leadership”. Our school was visited by 12 students and two teachers from the Lőrinc Szabó School in Budapest. The guests learned the specifics of the Estonian education system and tried to discover the secret of Estonia’s PISA success. They also got to see the work of our school’s student council, visited the Puiestee building and saw the lessons of international classes. The Hungarian students were impressed by the polite students of our school and the learning opportunities in the lessons. During the visit, the guests also got to experience Estonian culture and history. The students and teachers visited the Estonian National Museum and were treated to a performance by the Härmatis folk dance group C1/C2 in the Aula, where, in addition to our folk dances, the Hungarians also taught their folk dance steps. It was a fun and inspiring experience. **Alla Vinitšenko, Liis Somelar, and the Student Council coordinated the Hungarians' visit.**



## NOPTICED IN HÄRMA

- On 31 March, **the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a conference titled "How can you change the world?"**. The event aimed to introduce young people to different opportunities to get involved in society and do something, either locally or internationally. Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna and our school's secondary school senior, **Henrik Harjus** (12a), attended the event and told the young people about his experience as a youth delegate to the Council of Europe (CLRAE).

In addition to listening to interesting lectures, the conference also had a practical part, in which you had to make a video or post about a topic with global impact. This event motivated me to take action even more, because we can shape our own future even when we are young. I would definitely recommend this conference to my schoolmates who have not attended a similar event before, but are interested in it. NB! Register as early as possible, otherwise you will miss out on a place.



### **Eleriin Sepp** (12b)

- On 28 March, **Mia-Chanel Susi** (12c) taught the 11th-grade cooking elective. The students prepared snacks suitable for a buffet table from Mia-Chanel's UPT cookbook "Nauding: maitsete teekond". The menu included: Persian love cake, oreo dryagadeiro, honey butter toast, bruschetta, potato-based guiche and ham rolls — practical learning from student to student. Tasting the party dishes was carried out according to all the rules of the buffet table. Thank you, Mia-Chanel.



## NOPTICED IN HÄRMA

- MHG students succeeded in the citywide German poetry competition on 28 March. Among the students from the basic school, the audience award went to **Kaia Oder** (8b), supervisor **Sigrid Parts**. Of the three special awards given to the competitors from the secondary school category, one went to **Emma Schöbe** (10b), supervisor **Heikki Veinimäe**, and the audience award went to **Agnes Vengerfeldt** (10b), **Heikki Veinimäe**.
- On 31 March, **Una Ehlers**, a representative of the **University of Rostock**, introduced MHG German language students to further study opportunities at the University of Rostock and German universities and colleges in the reading room of the school library. Miina Härma Gümnaasium caught the attention of the University of Rostock during a tour of the university, thanks to the MHG DSD school status. MHG has been a DSD school since 2010. Thanks to the school's DSD school status, MHG students can take the DSD I and DSD II exams and receive the corresponding DSD diplomas, which all German universities and colleges recognize as documents proving language proficiency. Since 2010, numerous German language students among MHG students have become holders of a DSD diploma, thanks to the aforementioned exams.



## **BIOLOGY HOBBY GROUP**

A Biology Club for 8th and 9th grade students began operations at the end of September. Initially, the plan was to meet twice a month, but it so happened that various activities were divided into more sessions.

We started off grandly with the Science School workshop class "Molecular Biology - Forensic Science Laboratory". The supervisors were our own school biology teacher Irina Guljavina and the head of the Science School biology workshop Angela Peeb. In the workshop, we were introduced to laboratory work and learned about molecular biology, DNA, and what it does in our body. As the name of the class suggested, the students were able to play the role of forensic scientists and identify the murderer from five suspects using a DNA sample (see photo 1).

At the beginning of the first semester, we dealt with a number of ecology topics. For example, we took a closer look at the functioning and communities of different ecosystems and discussed the ecological pyramid and trophic levels. When covering the topics, we went in-depth and studied various websites about climate change, and we also played the University of Tartu Natural History Museum's forest game about species protection.

We had several guests during the academic year. In December, we met with Helen Kivisild and Margit Turb, specialists from the Environmental Board. Margit talked about alien species in Estonia. During the conversation, we discussed the dangers associated with the invasion of alien species, the main ways alien species reach Estonia, and how to control alien species. The students were tasked with finding the best ways to control alien species in cooperation (see photo 2). Margit introduced the organization of nature conservation in Estonia. The young people solved a topical problem – finding the most suitable places for onshore wind farms. In January, the hobby group participants tested themselves in a Jeopardy quiz by the Estonian Nature Foundation. They were guided by Mariliis Haljasorg (see photo 3).

The workshop "Crayfish in Estonian Water Bodies" offered by the Estonian University of Life Sciences, which Katrin Kaldre conducted at the school, turned out to be really interesting. Katrin had brought three different types of crayfish with her, which were actively moving around in the boxes and offered the students plenty to explore. The crayfish could be taken out of the box and examined more closely (see photo 4).

Our last guest was Aleks Hokkanen from Tartu Health Care College. Aleks talked about studying to be a physiotherapist, gave a brief overview of the functioning of the musculoskeletal system and emphasized the importance of an active lifestyle. The game Droomon or Muscle was especially fun. Some of the interest group members took a group photo with Aleks (see photo 5).

Thank you to all the students who found the time to participate in the hobby group!

**Keily Ehasalu – hobby group supervisor**



Photo 1. Eliis and Martha Johanna are learning to use an automatic pipette.



Photo 2. Finding more effective ways to control alien species.



Photo 3. Jeopardy.



Photo 4. An alien species that has entered Estonian waters – the signal crayfish.



Photo 5. Biology hobby group students and physiotherapy class guest Aleks Hokkanen.



# KiVa

## poster competition

Make your own KiVa poster that reflects KiVa in our school!

---

Age groups: grades 1-3, 4-6, 7-8

1st place in each age group will be announced. Rewards guaranteed!

1st place posters will decorate the school hallways.

Bring the completed poster to KiVa team member no later than  
April 25th.

CRITERIA:



For more information, contact the KiVa team.



## ONE SCHOOL, TWO CURRICULA



### ESTONIAN CURRICULUM

- \* Studies in **ESTONIAN**
- \* Module selection in the spring of 10th grade
- \* Cross-curricular modules, electives and language groups
- \* English taught in level groups
- \* **9 in-depth MODULES**, everyone can study selected modules



### INTERNATIONAL IB DIPLOMA

- \* Studies in **ENGLISH**
- \* Vertical curriculum that allows for in-depth studies
- \* **6 subjects, STUDENTS CREATE THEIR OWN** curriculum
- \* Recognized by universities around the world, including Estonia
- \* Applying in spring of 10th grade

### WE CAN LEARN:



- \* We teach critical thinking
- \* We provide tools to cope in a global world
- \* We value creativity and design thinking
- \* We provide skills for agency, leadership and collaboration

We are looking forward to welcoming 9th grade students to the MHG Open House on 23 April at 16:00 or 17:00. Register: [HERE](#)

